

AIRGRAM

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

Cuba
SEP 4 1962

FILE

Qm

FROM : AmEmbassy MEXICO, D.F.

DATE: August 31, 1962

SUBJECT : Cuban Exiles Report Soviet Troops in Cuba

REF :

An American resident correspondent has informed the Embassy that he recently talked in Mexico with Luis BOTIFOLL, prominent Cuban exile connected with the Cuban Revolutionary Council of Miami. Botifoll assured the correspondent that Soviet military presence in Cuba was a fact, and that among the thousands of Soviet technicians who recently arrived on the island, many appeared to be between 18 and 20 years of age, too young to have had time to acquire any technical experience to impart to the Cubans. According to Botifoll, these young Russians dress in sports clothes but give the appearance of having only recently completed their military training. Persons of many other nationalities are present in Cuba, including Spaniards, presumably as part of an international brigade, Botifoll told the correspondent. Colonel Enrique LISTER, well known Spanish Communist who fought with the Republican forces during the Spanish Civil War, is now in Cuba, he added.

Botifoll is also reported to have said that two sites with antennae, presumably used for monitoring activity at Cape Canaveral, will be converted into missile bases.

Another prominent Cuban exile, Carlos MARQUEZ Sterling, arrived in Mexico on August 30. According to press reports, he stated upon arrival that at least 12,000 Soviet soldiers had landed in the Cuban ports of Habana, Nipe and Mariel. Marquez Sterling, who said that he was on his way to Ecuador on a special mission, foresaw that "the next struggle, which will occur in the heart of Cuba, in the Sierra Cristal, Sierra de los Organos and Sierra Maestra, will have to be by Cubans against Castroites, Argentines and Russians." He also predicted that it would not be long before a

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revolutionary outbreak, supported by the people, would liquidate the Soviet experiment in communizing the Caribbean.

For the Ambassador:

Robert W. Adams
Robert W. Adams
Counselor of Embassy

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